National Foreign Assessment Center

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CIA/pp Briefs 79-036

Area Briefs

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2002

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PAGE 3 OF PAGES

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EAST ASIA BRIEF AP EAB 79-036 FOR FEBRUARY 22, 1979.Y

FROM: NFAC/COORDINATION STAFF.Y

CONTENTS:Y

1. VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA-CHINA- [redacted] SITUATION REPORT.Y

[redacted]

ITEMS:Y

1. VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA-CHINA [redacted] INTENSE FIGHTING CONTINUES ALONG THE SINO-VIETNAMESE FRONTIER, WITH THE LARGEST BATTLES TAKING PLACE IN THE CAO BANG AND LANG SON AREAS IN THE NORTHEAST. BTHE SITUATION REMAINS FLUID, BUT THE CHINESE APPEAR TO CONTROL A 5- TO 10-KILOMETER STRIP OF VIETNAMESE TERRITORY STRETCHING NEARLY THE FULL LENGTH OF THE BORDER. [redacted]

IN THE LAO CAI, CAO BANG, AND LANG SON AREAS, THE CHINESE HAVE DRIVEN DEEPER. [redacted]

[redacted]

CHINESE LOSSES APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN HEAVY BECAUSE

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THEY HAVE SPREAD THEIR FORCES THINLY OVER A WIDE FRONT. WE BELIEVE THE CHINESE STILL HAVE SUFFICIENT TROOPS ALREADY AT THE BORDER TO PUSH MUCH DEEPER INTO VIETNAM.

//VIETNAMESE CASUALTIES PROBABLY HAVE BEEN LIGHTER THAN THOSE OF THE CHINESE, BUT THE VIETNAMESE PARAMILITARY AND BORDER FORCES THAT HAVE BEEN BEARING THE BRUNT OF THE FIGHTING ARE BADLY OUTNUMBERED. AFTER FIVE DAYS OF FIGHTING THEY MAY BE SPREAD THIN.

THE INVASION APPEARS TO HAVE AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE THE DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE FORCES DEFENDING THE BORDER. THE CHINESE ATTACKED VIRTUALLY EVERY TOWN, VILLAGE, AND MILITARY POSITION ALONG THE BORDER. MOST OF THE ASSAULTS INVOLVED BATTALIONS OR REGIMENTS

THE CHINESE HAVE SPENT THE PAST FEW DAYS CONSOLIDATING THEIR GAINS AND DO NOT APPEAR TO BE IN ANY HURRY TO

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PUSH DEEP INTO VIETNAM. INSTEAD, THEY APPARENTLY ARE SEEKING TO DRAW VIETNAMESE MAIN FORCES NORTH FROM HANOI IN ORDER TO ENGAGE THEM IN A SET-PIECE BATTLE. BEIJING ALSO APPEARS TO HOPE THAT THIS WOULD FORCE HANOI TO RE-CALL SOME OF ITS COMBAT FORCES FROM KAMPUCHEA.

VIETNAM APPARENTLY IS NOT YET SENDING ITS BEST FORCES NORTH.

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